

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed February 28, 2006. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 23 and 27 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response to that indication, and to facilitate prompt issuance of a patent, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 22, 26, and 31 to generally incorporate the subject matter of claims 23 and/or 27, and claims 11-21 have been canceled.

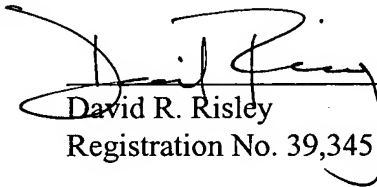
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims that remains in the case is presently in condition for allowance.

Applicant reserves the right to present the canceled claims, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequently.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on

5-5-06
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Signature